



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–VRP–WS – NPS0034514; PPWOWMADL3, PPMPAS1Y.TD0000 (222); OMB Control Number 1024-0022]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Backcountry/Wilderness Use

Permit

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 we, the National Park Service (NPS) are proposing to revise a previously approved information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by mail to Phadrea Ponds, NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive (MS-242), Reston, Virginia 20192; or to phadrea_ponds@nps.gov (email). Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1024-0022 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Roger Semler, Chief, Wilderness Stewardship Division at roger_semler@nps.gov (email). Please reference OMB Control Number 1024-0022 in the subject line of your comments. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country

to make international calls to the point of contact in the United States. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How the agency might minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or

other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit is an extension of the NPS statutory authority and responsibility to protect the park areas it administers and to manage the public use thereof (54 U.S.C. 100101, 100751, and 320102). In 1976, the NPS initiated a backcountry registration system by the regulations codified in 36 CFR 1.5, 1.6, and 2.10. The NPS regulations codified in 36 CFR parts 1 through 7, 12, and 13 are designated to implement statutory mandates that provide for resource protection and public enjoyment. The registration system aims to provide users access to backcountry and wilderness areas of national parks while enhancing the protection of natural and cultural resources by using better management practices by the park management. Data collected through the registration process serves as an important resource that informs backcountry/wilderness management and stewardship planning, decision-making, and operations, and provides a means of disseminating public safety and outdoor ethics messages regarding backcountry/wilderness travel and camping along with continuing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Permitting enhances the ability of the NPS to educate users on potential hazards, search and rescue efforts, and resource protection. The objectives of the permit system carried out by park managers are to ensure:

- (1) Requests by backcountry users are evaluated by park managers per applicable statutes and NPS regulations.
- (2) The use of consistent standards and permitting criteria throughout the

agency.

(3) To the extent possible, the use of a single and efficient permitting document, NPS Forms 10–404 *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application* and 10–404A *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Hangtag*, are used to provide access to NPS backcountry areas, including areas that require a reservation to enter where use limits are imposed per other NPS regulations. The 10-404AK *Alaska Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application*, is used within Alaskan park units, Denali National Park and Preserve and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, due to unique, park-specific requirements like the additional permitted methods of travel as regulated by ANILCA Section 1110(a).

We are proposing to add a new form 10-404C *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application for Climbing* to this collection. This form will address the need for a separate permitting system for climbing in the backcountry and use the of fixed anchors. This form would include fields specific to climbing carried over from the currently approved form 10-404 *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application* and additional fields for the use of fixed anchors while climbing.

Title of Collection: Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit, 36 CFR 1.5, 1.6, and 2.10.

OMB Control Number: 1024-0022.

Form Number: NPS Forms 10–404 *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application*, 10–404A *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Hangtag*, 10-404AK *Alaska Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application*, and New 10-404C *Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit Application for Climbing*.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals, private sector, and state, local, or tribal government entities applying to use backcountry and wilderness areas

within units of the national park system.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 351,121.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 351,121.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: Varies from 5 minutes to 8 minutes depending on the activity.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 39,116.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor nor is a person required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Phadrea Ponds,

Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-26140 Filed: 11/30/2022 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/1/2022]